

Applic. No. 10/725,090

Amdt. dated September 10, 2004

Reply to Office action of May 10, 2004

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A housing for a refrigerator, comprising:

a body defining an interior and having:

at least one side part formed from a panel of flat material;

side walls; and

a front side with an opening open to said interior;

vertical border strips and horizontal end bars surrounding said opening, at least one of said border ~~strip~~ strips together with at least one of said side walls being a constituent part of said at least one ~~of said side parts~~ part;

said side part having a joining element for joining said side part together with at least one of said end ~~bar~~ bars; and

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said at least one end bar being introduced into said joining element and subjecting said border strip to a force having an effect of widening an angle at which said border strip is connected to said side wall.

Claim 2. The housing according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one end bar has a front side and a rear side;
and

said joining element forms a clamp clamping in said at least one end bar between at least two points of contact on a respective one of said front and rear sides, said two points of contact each being spaced apart by different distances from a side wall of said body.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The housing according to claim 2, wherein said at least one end bar has a joint-on buffer body forming at least one of said points of contact.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The housing according to claim 2, wherein said point of contact on said rear side of said at least one end bar is located closer to an adjacent one of said side walls than said point of contact on said front side of said at least one end bar.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The housing according to claim 2, wherein:

said at least one end bar has a section with a thickness;

said clamp has two opposite legs defining a U-profile and a groove;

a distance between said two opposite legs is greater than said thickness of said section of said at least one end bar; and

said section engages in said clamp and extends obliquely through said groove of said U-profile between said two points of contact.

Claim 6 (original): The housing according to claim 1, wherein:

at least one of said border strips has an edge directed away from said side wall; and

said joining element is connected integrally to said edge directed away from said side wall.

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Claim 7 (original): The housing according to claim 1, wherein said joining element is connected elastically to said border strip.

Claim 8 (original): The body according to claim 1, wherein said joining element is connected rigidly to said border strip.

Claim 9 (original): The body according to claim 1, wherein said joining element is connected rigidly to a side wall.

Claim 10 (original): The body according to claim 1, wherein said joining element is connected rigidly to one of the group consisting of said border strip and a side wall of said border strip.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The housing according to claim 7, wherein said joining element is retained by said at least one end bar in a position in which said joining element has been rotated elastically in relation to a position that said joining element assumes when not joined together with said at least one end bar.

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Claim 12 (original): The housing according to claim 1, wherein said border strip is covered with a colored sheet material.

Claim 13 (original): The housing according to claim 1, wherein said side wall is free of a color coating at least in a rear region thereof.

Claim 14 (original): In a refrigerator body defining an interior and having a front side with an opening open to the interior, vertical border strips and horizontal end bars surrounding the opening, at least one of the border strips, together with a side wall being a constituent part of a side part formed from a panel of flat material, a connection configuration comprising:

a joining element at the side part for joining the side part together with the end bar, the end bar being introduced into said joining element and subjecting said border strip to a force having an effect of widening an angle at which the border strip is connected to the side wall.